GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3292
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
EXPANSION OF AIR INDIA AND INDIAN AIRLINES
AMAR ROY PRADHAN;BRAHMANAND MANDAL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether progress of expansion plan of Air India and Indian Airlines has been adversely affected due to shortage of new aircraft and pilots for existing aircraft?

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the problem; and

(c) the time by which the expansion plans are likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a), (b) and (c) : In view of the disinvestment, it was found desirable that the decisions regarding major capital expenditure and purchase of new aircraft be left to the new management. However, to meet the short term requirement, Air India have taken 4 A310-300 aircraft on dry lease with a view to augment its routes and passengers carrying capacity. Air India is also considering the induction of 4 additional A310-300 aircraft on dry lease - 2 by end of December, 2001/early January 2002 and 2 in the second quarter of 2002.

Similarly, Indian Airlines has also inducted four A-320 aircraft on dry lease basis, two in April/May 2001 and two in November, 2001. Another two A-320 aircraft are scheduled for induction in March, 2002. The lease tenure of two A-300 aircraft has also been extended from 3 years to 5 years.